

Libby

ASHBURTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 1958

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Health Report for the year ending December 31st 1958. As I was not your Medical Officer of Health during that year the report is based on information supplied to me by my predecessor, Dr. R. Bellamy and by the Public Health Inspector, Mr. H.V. Jones.

The Birth Rate was 16.0, an increase on the 1957 figure. The Death Rate was 11.57, lower than last year's figure. Almost one third of the deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulation. Few infectious diseases were notified during the year and there were no epidemics.

No cases of food poisoning were reported. When the Food Hygiene Regulations came into operation on January 1st 1956 and July 1st 1956 the main object was to reduce the incidence of food poisoning. There is no doubt that studied observance of the Regulations by all food handlers could attain this end. It was noticeable during the year, however, that a number of assistants in food premises were still not fully aware of the requirements of the regulations. Many shopkeepers have taken a lot of trouble in training assistants how to handle food correctly and maintain a high standard of food hygiene. Customers are familiar with those shops that are clean and trouble is taken to satisfy their wishes. It is not often that a customer compliments the manager on his shop or staff and if more people were to do so it would be of great encouragement to the Managers and their staffs to keep up their standards.

In conclusion, I would report that the health of the Community was very satisfactory and few problems concerning the environmental health of the district encountered.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant.

F.T. HUNT.
Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATHS

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	-	2	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	1	3
Vascular Leisions of Nervous System	4	4	8
Coronary Disease	4	3	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
Other Heart Diseases	2	5	7
Other Circulatory Diseases	-	1	1
Pneumonia	3	-	3
Bronchitis	-	2	2
Other Diseases	-	5	5
Suicides	1	-	1
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			<u>44</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

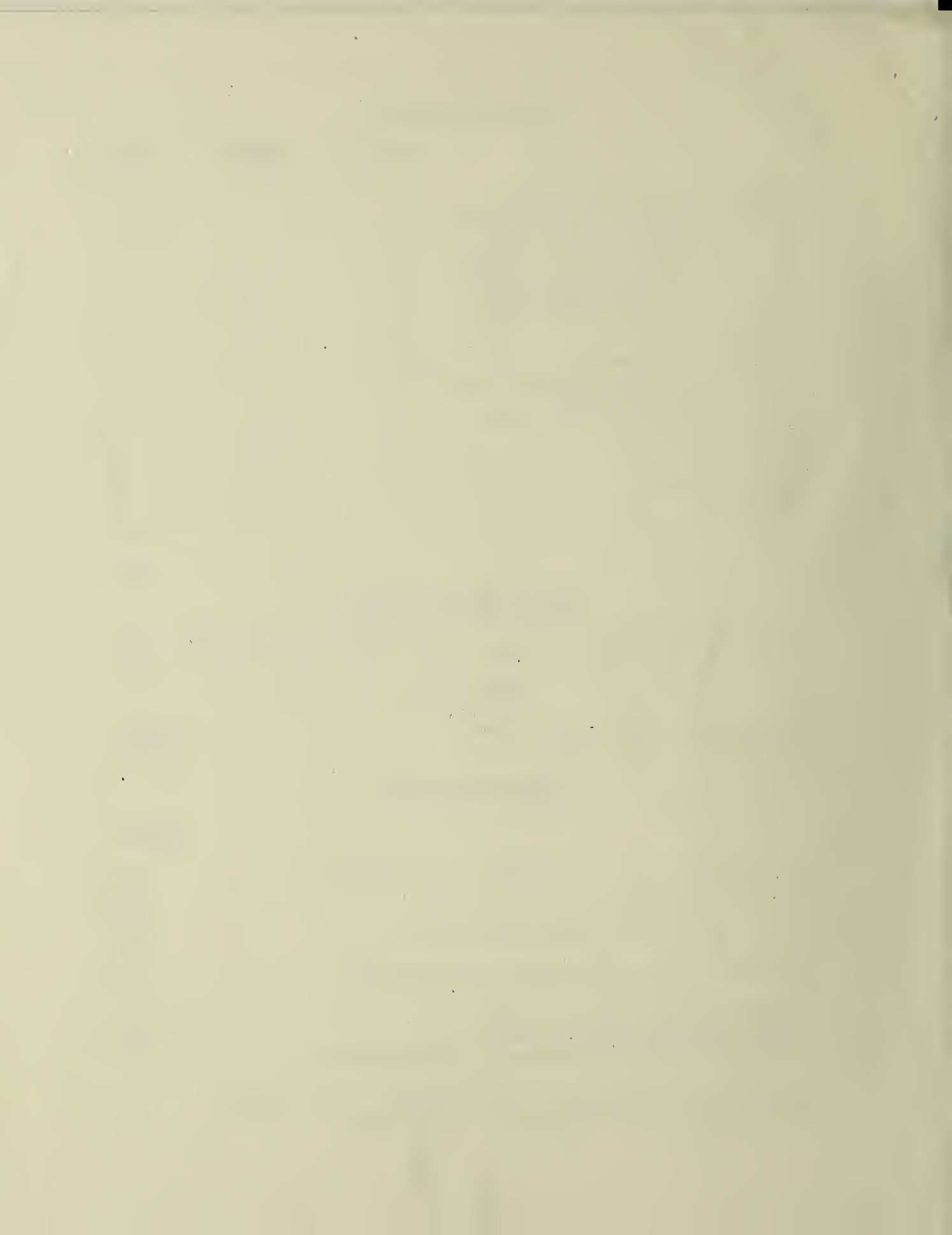
12 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year.

STATISTICS

Area of District (in acres)	6,781
Population (mid 1958)	2,690

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Live Births 21 males 19 females	40
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Births	14.86
Still Births	NIL
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Births	NIL
Total Births	40
Corrected Birth rate per 1,000 Births	16.0
Infant Deaths under 4 weeks	NIL
Infant Deaths under 1 year	NIL
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	NIL
Number of Illegitimate live births 2 girls	2
Percentage of Illegitimate live births	5%



VITAL STATISTICS (Continued)

Maternal Deaths		NIL
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births		NIL
Number of Deaths	19 males 25 females	44
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population		16.3
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population		11.57

The corrected Birth Rate and Death Rate takes into account the difference in the distribution of the various age groups and the proportion of the sexes in Ashburton as compared with the rest of the country and gives a true comparison between the state of affairs in this Urban District and that in larger units.

MEAT INSPECTION

There are two slaughterhouses in the district and during the year the following inspections were carried out at these slaughterhouses:-

Sheep	680
Pigs	175
Bovines	143
Calves	1

Meat condemned included a number of cirrhotic bovine livers, one sheep carcase and offal, one bovine head and portions of the forequarters.

WATER SUPPLY

Samples of drinking water taken during the year have shown that the water supply is of a very satisfactory standard of purity.

SEWAGE

The sewage is now treated at the Buckfastleigh Sewage Works. There was found to be an exceptional amount of infiltration of water into the sewerage system and steps were taken to remedy this but without complete success. It is hoped, however, that the problem will be solved during 1959.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection was carried out at one house following a death from tuberculosis. Another house was visited and disinfested following the removal to hospital of the sick and infirm tenant.

A Rodent Operator is shared with three neighbouring local authorities and periodic visits are made to the district. Special attention is paid to the refuse dump and the sewers.



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FOOD HYGIENE

Visits were made to selected food premises during the year to give advice on the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

FACTORIES

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948. There were 11 factories on the register in which sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 were required to be enforced by the local authority. 26 Inspections were made and no written notices were required to be sent to the occupiers, nor were any defects recorded. There were no registered outworkers in 1958.

MORTUARY

Hot water apparatus was installed. Three bodies were received in the year.

HOUSING

In six cases owners of unfit houses gave undertakings not to use the houses for human habitation.

